the Richmond Review

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Crowd Protests Plan to Close Upper Great Highway

By Thomas K. Pendergast

More than 100 people lined the steps in front of City Hall on July 23 to protest against permanently closing the Upper Great Highway for motor vehicle traffic between Lincoln Way and Sloat Boulevard.

A ballot measure is slated to go before San Francisco voters in November which, if passed, would prohibit cars, with a stated goal of ultimately converting the space into an oceanfront park.

In June, San Francisco District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio submitted the ballot measure with the backing of fellow supervisors Myrna Melgar, Dean Preston, Matt Dorsey and Rafael Mandelman just before the deadline for the next election, a move that caught some off guard. Opponents quickly organized to resist closing what they see as a vital north-south traffic artery.

"As a veteran who lives on the south side of the Great Highway, it is my access road to get to the VA Hospital when I need it," said Leanna Louie, one of the protest organizers. "And it makes a big difference; not having the Great Highway open doubles my time going from my home to the VA Hospital.

"There are many people here who are in professions where they're required to use the Great Highway," she said.

Former San Francisco Police Department commander and a fourth-generation San Franciscan who graduated from George Washington High School, Richard Corriea, does not like a few things about the proposed ballot measure, including the timing of when it was submitted.

"It's sneaky politics to stuff something like this in your desk and take it out on the last possible day for submitting things to the Department of Elections, so that they force us

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'Life is Better With Dahlias'

Dahlia Society of California members Deborah Dietz (left) and Sarah Smith attend to the flowers in the Dahlia Dell east of the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park. Every summer, the garden bursts with blooms of just about every color (except blue). The display is packed with many of the 700 named varieties of dahlias. Story on page 5. ***Courtesy photo.***

Special Screening Honors Actress Shelley Duvall at 4 Star

By Megan Robertson

San Francisco movie-goers lined Clement Street on July 14, waiting their turn to file into the 4 Star Theater. While CinemaSF's newest theater often has movie festivals, the tone of this one felt a bit different.

All day, patrons swarmed the cinema for "Shelley Duvall Day."

Shelley Duvall, "one of the greatest actresses of all time," according to the 4 Star's website, passed away on July 11. The Texas native was best known for her portrayal of the resilient and abused Wendy Torrance in Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining," and that of the whimsical Olive Oyl in the 1981 movie "Popeye."

In her memory, the theater screened four films: "Time Bandits" (1981), "Brewster McCloud" (1970), "3 Women" (1977) and "The Shining" (1980).

"I think for a lot of people, part of the shock is that a person who has such an immense and rich legacy like that feels immortal," said Sydney Peterson, one of the programmers at the 4 Star.

Upon stepping inside the cinema, this immortalization was palpable. Patrons were greeted by Duvall's name on the marquee, her photos posted around the box office and "We love you Shelley Duvall" written seemingly everywhere. Movie-goers flocked to the theater to show their support, flowing out onto the street and into Tunnel Record's shop adjoining the theater.

Quite solemnly, several attendees shared the impact Duvall's work has had on them.

"I always was enamored with her," Isabella Logan-Wright said before the screening of "The Shining." "It's a hard loss. It's so great to come and celebrate her here in this way."

The festival was never intended to be a memorial cel-

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I ♡ SHELLEY
I ♡ SHELL

Stella Puetz shows her admiration for actress Shelley Duvall by drawing "I (heart) Shelley" on her hand and cheek. "She was such a style icon. She's quite spectacular, and just so cool, so authentic," Puetz said. ***Photo by Megan Robertson.***

SFCTA Exploring Westside Subway Under Geary, 19th Ave.

By Thomas K. Pendergast

Talk of Muni expanding its underground light rail system to the west side of the City got some traction from San Francisco County Transit Authority (SFCTA) officials during two Zoom meetings last month.

The SFCTA is exploring the extension of Muni's subway system to run beneath Geary Boulevard in the Richmond District and then south under 19th Avenue through the Sunset District.

"Our current study phase aims to lay out the strategic framework for the project in terms of broad benefits, costs and planning issues, and to identify the road map for advancing the project over time," said SFCTA's Rail Program Manager Jesse Koehler, referring to the Geary/19th Avenue Subway Regional Connection Study.

"We are in the very early stages of discussion and analysis for this project, and the community's input and engagement are critical to shape this work."

The study was first requested by District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar.

"The west side still has a long way to go in terms of developing our infrastructure for so many things, including housing and transit to serve future generations and to help take us along on this climate crisis," Melgar said. "A regionally connected rail subway under Geary Boulevard and 19th Avenue has the promise and the potential to transform how this future development all over the west side will shape our area. It will connect our city and the west side to the rest of the Bay Area

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Richmond Painter Captures View North from GG Park Along Fulton

Painting 50 Streets in 50 Images: Plein Air Artist's Local Project Highlights Richmond District

By Clarisse Kim

The image is simple: The border of Golden Gate Park and Fulton Street, cars whizzing by. Neighbors and their dogs meander through the scene, telephone wires swing in the breeze; 22nd Avenue stretches out as if to touch the Bay. In the center of the frame stands artist Nathaniel J. Bice, back to the trees, head bowed over his easel, hands capturing the live Richmond landscape with his paintbrush and gouache.

The mission sounds simple, but only in phrase: To paint a series of 50 pieces depicting the view of 50 different streets, each looking north from Fulton Street. Bice aims to paint a plein air portrait of the entire Richmond District, told from the angle of Golden Gate Park.

"What's exciting about the series is when you put all the paintings together, you'll see the Golden Gate Bridge emerge from behind the Presidio and then disappear again," Bice said.

Plein air painting is a practice of painting landscapes outdoors. Artists paint from their natural surroundings, not a photo reference. This style is Bice's favorite method of painting.

For the past month and a half, Bice has called Fulton Street his outdoor studio. However, Bice's artistic journey began years ago, first as a high school thespian, then as a performance production major at Seattle's Cornish College of the Arts, to his early career as a scenic designer. He developed an interest in plein air art through his participation in Seattle's Urban Sketchers group.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and theaters closed indefinitely, Bice began to shift from his career in scenic design to the realm of visual arts. He pursued his interest in open-air sketching, practicing on the landscapes around him.

"I started with watercolor, so I was basically just adding a little color to my drawings," Bice said. "It's very different from what I do now. I've now switched to painting fully opaque – I don't even use a pencil. I just go in directly with paint. I'm trying to view the world not as lines, but as blocks of shape and color."

As Bice developed his fine art skills, he switched from watercolors to gouache, a water-soluble paint known for its opacity and forgiving nature. Gouache has become Bice's favorite art medium.

Artist Nathaniel J. Bice shows two of his planned 50 works representing the view north up the avenues in the Richmond District from Fulton Street along Golden Gate Park. ***Photo by Clarisse Kim.***

He also began submitting his works to galleries, including the upcoming 50|50 gallery show at the Sanchez Art Center in Pacifica, where each participant submits a series of 50 6x6 inch pieces, each tied by a unique theme.

In December of 2023, Bice created a plein air painting looking from Golden Gate Park down through 20th Avenue.

"There's a hill just inside the park that leads to a stone circle exactly big enough to set up in," Bice said. "It's like it was made for me to paint here. I painted the view looking down the center of 20th Avenue with the Golden Gate Bridge in the background."

The 20th Avenue painting became the seed for Bice's series for 50|50 Gallery. After learning of his admission into the gallery, Bice began painting in late June, starting from the eastern end of Golden Gate Park and working westward. Each painting takes about 30 minutes to two hours.

"Coming back to 20th Avenue to paint the next part of my series there has been a full-circle moment for me," Bice said.

However, this latest series is not without its difficulties. Plein air painting is entirely dependent on the weather, as gouache's consistency depends on the humidity.

"Plein air painting is a sport," Bice jokes. "There's the wind and the fog and the electrical wires in the background."

More importantly, translating a three-dimensional view into two dimensions is a challenge. The artist has to flatten space the way a camera would, taking proportions into mind.

"Your eye can see things differently than a camera can," he said. "In plein air painting, you can shift your perspective, and see how different objects interact. In the photo, you can't see behind a pole. The image is gone from you. I can really take the time to appreciate the world around me. Most people admire the Golden Gate Bridge for 30 seconds – I have spent hours studying what makes each specific view so magical."

Color is also a tricky subject to tackle. To combat somewhat dull undertones in the Richmond landscape, Bice uses a bright magenta underpainting as a first layer before painting on top with gouache. This method brings out the blue, olive and beige found in each street, giving the buildings newfound vividness.

He is about 30 paintings and around 100 hours into the series. Bice said the project has provided him with an artist's view of the Richmond District.

"Each street has its own character, and I have to look for the parts that make it recognizable," Bice said. "I've learned that the plants define each street, from the purple leaves to the red-flowered trees."

According to Bice, the community has also been welcoming of his project.

"Part of the advantage of painting outside is talking to the people who pass by," Bice said. "People come over and realize I've painted them into the picture. One person even recognized their neighbor and their dog in my painting."

With every neighbor's anecdote, Bice has learned more about the Richmond District, which transfers to his paintings.

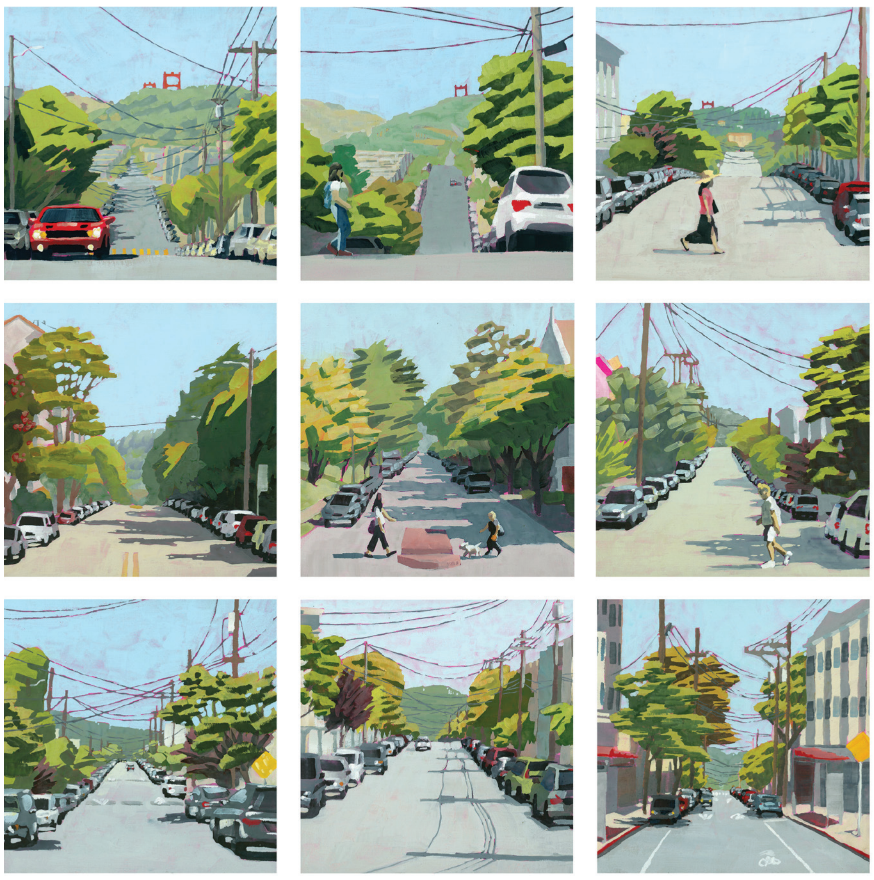
"Neighbors have told me stories, like how Funston is named Funston instead of 13th Avenue," Bice said, "There's so much history and culture going on in the Richmond!"

Bice's 50-painting series will be displayed at the 50|50 show starting Sept. 6. Looking to the future, Bice hopes he can one day paint a mural in the Richmond, contributing to the community he has spent hours capturing on canvas.

"We live in one of the most beautiful places on earth," Bice said. "The Richmond is great – our neighborhood has been incredibly supportive, and it has made this experience surreal.

Besides plein air paintings, Bice also paints murals and house models for commissions.

See Bice's work on Instagram (@njbice) and at njbice.com. To sign up for his Aug. 10 gouache class at Arch Art Supplies, go to eventbrite.com/e/cityscapes-in-gouache-with-nathaniel-bice-tickets.



Nine of Nathaniel J. Bice's paintings that will be part of the 50 works featuring scenes from the Richmond District to be exhibited at a gallery showing in Pacifica. ***Images courtesy of Nathaniel J. Bice.***

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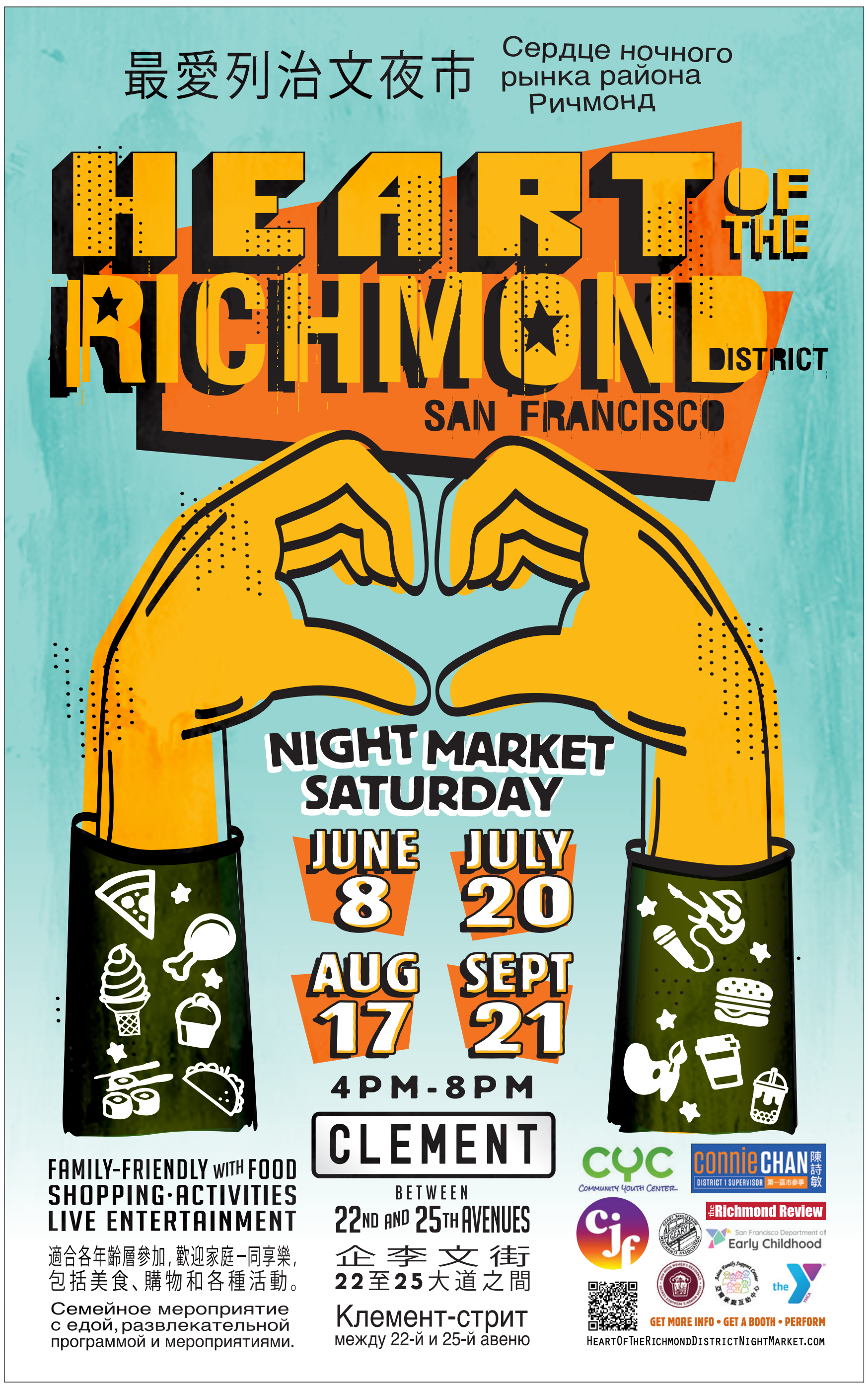

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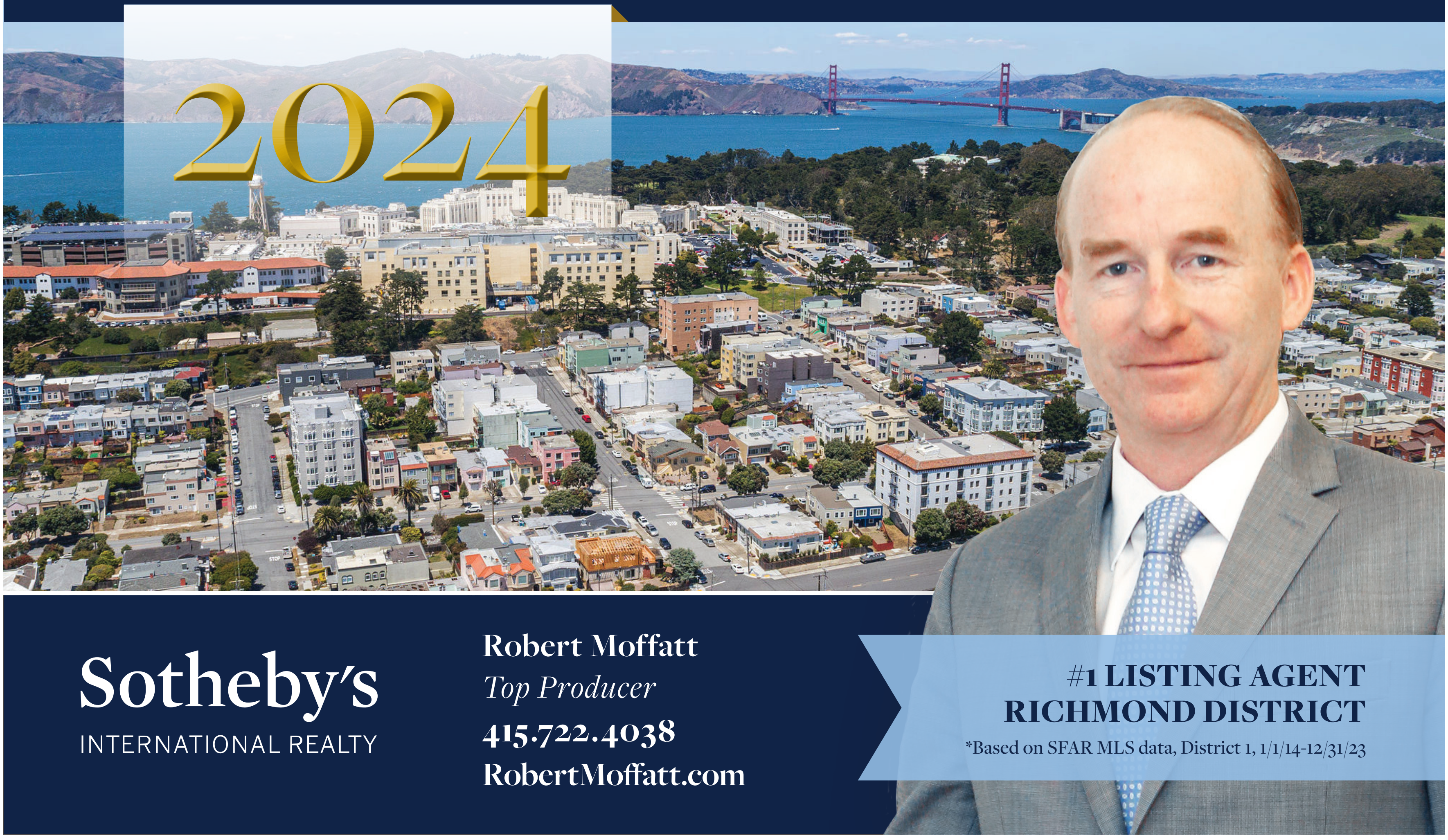

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Supervisor Connie Chan

Budget Reflects SF Values

As the chair of the SF Board of Supervisors' Budget Committee, I spent the month of June in meetings and hearings to review and amend the mayor's proposed San Francisco city budget.

Throughout this process, I did a deep dive into departmental spending and scrutinized every budget to find areas of unnecessary or wasteful spending. At this point in time, San Francisco is facing the stark reality of a ballooning $1 billion budget deficit, and it is imperative that we look at our budget through the lens of that reality.

To this end, I was very clear and consistent in my instructions to our city departments. We must be very controlled in our budgeting and cut wasteful spending, invest in critical services and save for a rainy day. And while it was not perfect, the budget advanced by the Budget and Appropriations Committee to the full Board of Supervisors for approval saw historic cuts, totaling more than $95 million. We also restored almost $59 million to vital services and added approximately $36 million in savings to our reserves.

Through the Budget and Appropriations Committee process, we reversed nearly $59 million in cuts to critical programs serving children, youth, seniors, families and the most vulnerable. The restored funding will be reinvested in oral health for children, the Dream Keeper Initiative, funds supporting workers' rights outreach and education for low-wage immigrant workers, public safety ambassadors, workforce development, tenant protections and emergency rental assistance, food security programs and access to neighborhood grocery stores, child care services for youth and our families, violence prevention programs, support for transitional aged youth, subsidies for vulnerable transgender individuals, and environmental justice initiatives.

These vital services support our most vulnerable residents, advance healthier communities, bolster public safety and help keep people housed. In addition, recognizing the City's staffing shortages in key public safety departments, like the police department and 911 dispatchers, we did not make any cuts to and in fact, added funding for our front-line emergency responders, police, fire and 911 operators. I also am keenly aware that true public safety depends upon a comprehensive approach. We restored funds that were cut in the mayor's proposed budget to the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) for community ambassadors – expanding on critical partnerships for our emergency responders to help alleviate overworked officers.

Our city budget is also a statement of our values and, in these challenging economic times, a constant struggle between what is nice-to-have versus what is essential. While the Board restored much of what is essential, this budget still has too much of what is nice-to-have. We certainly worked to ensure that this budget includes vital services that are essential to protecting our most vulnerable residents and keeping San Francisco safe and clean, but to get to this point we had to concede to putting our limited resources to non-critical programs such as a downtown light show and free tourist parking.

In order to stave off draconian budget cuts in future years, we must start asking ourselves now whether these nice-to-have, but non-essential projects are the types of spending our departments focus on. My promise to you is that I will continue to do the hard work to support our residents, working families and the most vulnerable. I will fight on for a budget that every San Franciscan deserves.

Connie Chan represents District 1 on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. She can be reached at 415-554-7410 or chanstaff@sfgov.org. Find an archive of her columns online at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

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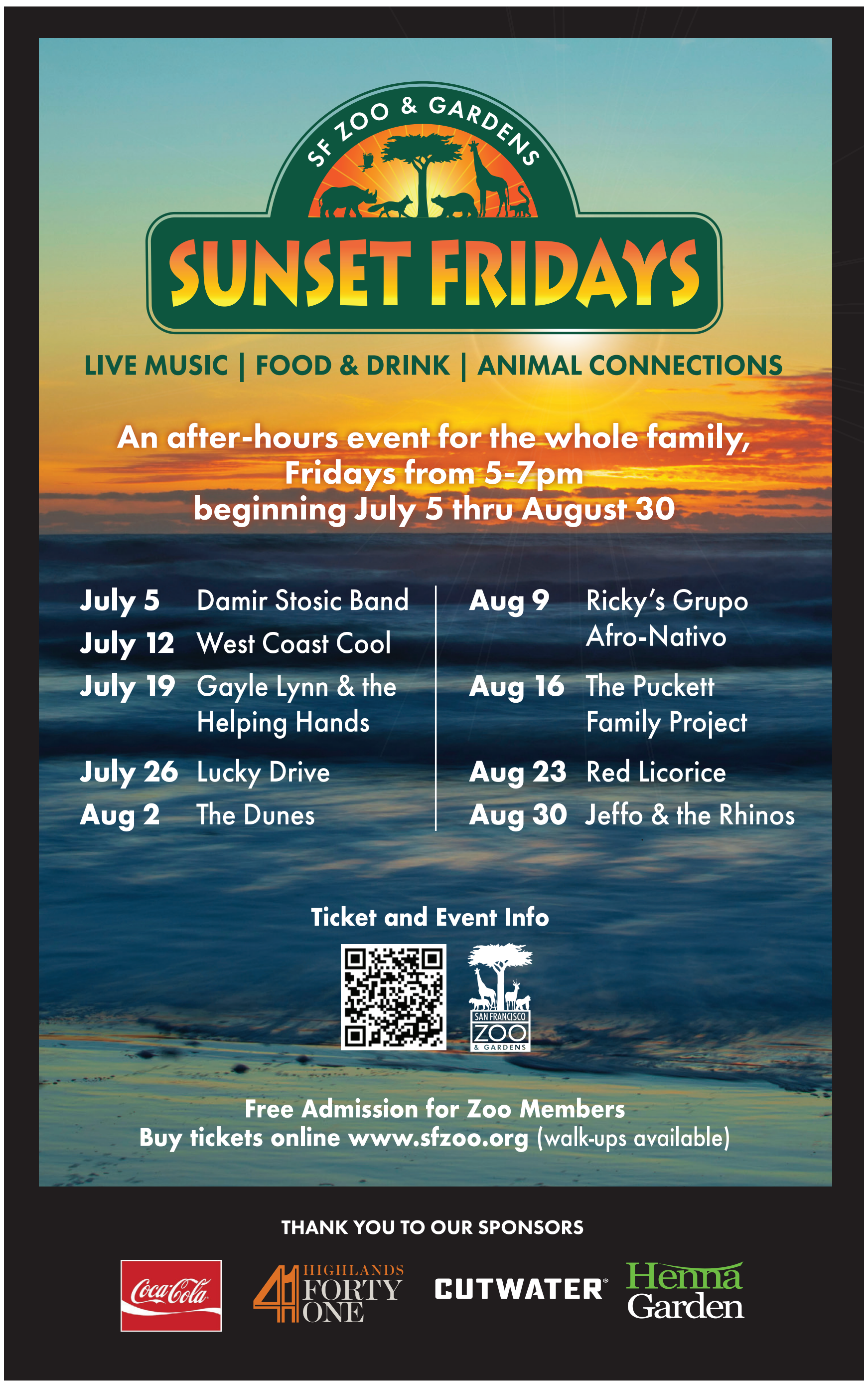

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Westside Subway Explored

Continued from page 1

and beyond.

"It will attract new riders," she said. "It will connect new residents to the rest of the world. And it will provide us an opportunity to design this into the future, to fund it, to think and dream of the future for our community, to engage the community and to make sure that it reflects our needs and our priorities and that it will connect us to the rest of the (SF Bay) areas."

Project Manager Andrew Heidel is the principal transportation planner for SFCTA and the project manager.

"Aligning a Geary subway with a new Transbay Rail Crossing in the east and connecting it with a 19th Avenue connection to San Mateo County in the south allows the project to act as a broader part of the regional East Bay to Peninsula connection, while also serving parts of San Francisco that today are not well connected to the regional transit network," Heidel said.

He noted that the Geary Boulevard corridor is one of the busiest in San Francisco, and 38-Geary buses now serve an average of about 40,000 people a day, while the 28-19th Avenue buses average another 12,000 each day.

The SFCTA projects that, after 2050, a regionally connected subway would have ridership of about 300,000 passengers per day, with up to a third of those riders traveling to or from places outside of San Francisco.

Heidel said 300,000 is also about the equivalent number of BART riders per day that were riding through the Transbay tube before the pandemic.

"We recognize that more housing is coming to western San Francisco," he said. "The recently adopted Housing Element Plan by the San Francisco Planning Department has called for nearly half of San Francisco's over 80,000 new housing units to be built in areas that could be served by a potential Geary/19th Avenue subway. That would make the area one of the fastest growing population centers in Northern California."

He suggested that street buses alone would not be able to handle that many new residents.

At this point, the estimated cost of the project is somewhere between $15 billion and $25 billion.

"Today, southwest San Francisco has some of the highest rates of driving in the City and 19th Avenue is one of the City's most perpetually congested corridors," he said. "We know the people's choice to drive is also often because of the fact that many trips are to and from northern San Mateo County – trips that aren't well served by transit today, so people choose to drive."

The eastern end of the new subway would probably connect somewhere around Montgomery Street or the Salesforce Transit Center.

But why turn south down 19th Avenue instead of extending it to the Outer Richmond?

Previous Geary subway studies had proposals to build yards, storage and cleaning facilities out toward the end of Geary Boulevard.

"There's really not a great place to put that all the way out at the western end of Geary Boulevard or truly anywhere along Geary or 19th Avenue," Heidel explained. "That underscores the importance of being able to tie back in to the regional rail system at both ends, so that we can leverage, potentially, some places elsewhere along the regional transit corridors that are existing, such as the yard at Colma, to help us meet the needs of the system."

They are exploring how a direct connection might be made to BART at Daly City to tie into the regional rail system. And on the other end they might possibly connect at Salesforce Tower Transit Center or an adjacent facility.

It would not replace the Geary BRT because both will be needed to meet future demand.

Although research shows that light rail systems have a positive long-term effect on economic development, the impact on businesses along the route during construction is more uncertain.

"As we zoom in to the Geary/19th Avenue corridor specifically, a lot will come down to the design of the project, the land-use planning decisions that are made and other supportive policies, both in construction and operation, that ensure we leverage the maximum benefits from the project and manage some of the constraints and challenges," Koehler said.

But why not go further out under Geary but then turn south and run the rest of the route under Sunset Boulevard instead?

Previous studies showed that ridership on the 38-Geary buses started to drop off once they went further west than Park Presidio Boulevard in the Richmond, according to Heidel.

As for 19th Avenue versus Sunset Boulevard, if they use 19th Avenue instead of Sunset, fewer people who live between the two in the Sunset District are likely to "backtrack" to make it to the subway, and because of the sandy soil, construction of underground tunnels gets more difficult the further west out into the Sunset as they go out toward the beach and the Great Highway.

RichmondSunsetNews.com

Dahlias, SF's Official Flower, Star in Their Annual GG Park Show

By Linda Badger

Members of dahlia societies from all over California, Oregon and Idaho will be coming to San Francisco's Annual Dahlia Show Aug. 17 and 18 at the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park to display their best blooms and to compete for coveted prizes, such as "best in show," "best arrangement," and "nature's oddities."

The public can attend for the prize of being surrounded by dahlias of all colors, sizes and shapes, from the button-sized, honeycomb-like "Pompons" to the big, showy "Dinnerplate Dahlias."

According to Dahlia Society member Deborah Dietz, this year's show will be impressive, with 1,000 cut dahlias on display. Bouquets of dahlias, with "Paris Olympics" themes, will be exhibited, including "High Jump" arrangements taking dahlias to new heights and "Seine" bouquets utilizing water features. Special photo opportunities will be made available so visitors can take selfies while surrounded by a profusion of colorful dahlia blooms. While the show's prizes will be awarded by expert judges, visitors will get a chance to vote for their favorite blooms to select this year's winner of the prestigious "people's choice" prize.

Dietz noted that "roving ambassadors" – dahlias experts – will be on hand during the show to answer questions from the public about growing and tending to dahlias in their own gardens. The cool, temperate climate of San Francisco is especially friendly to the flowers. To promote local cultivation, members of the Dahlia Society hold an annual plant sale in the spring and often have some plants for sale on Tuesday and Saturday mornings in Golden Gate Park's Dahlia Dell next to the east side of the Conservatory of Flowers.

Flowers of many colors and shapes bloom every summer at the Dahlia Dell next to the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park. *Photo by Andy Fischer.*

Dahlias have a long history in San Francisco. On Oct. 4, 1926, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted the dahlia as San Francisco's official flower because, "its versatility, its beauty and its infinite variety of color and form make it the very symbol of San Francisco life and of the spirit of her people." Anyone who visits the Dahlia Dell will understand this somewhat flowery sentiment. The Dell's main display consists of a gated patch surrounded by asphalt and packed with 700 named varieties of dahlias – as dense and diverse as the City itself.

During the absolute peak season for dahlias, typically the last week of August through the first week of September, the Dahlia Dell is bursting with fanciful blooms, which are tended to by a group of dedicated volunteers. Each plant has its own individuality and unique nameplate: "Fancy Pants," "Badger Twinkle," "Candy Corn," "Kung Fu Kitty," "Mystic Fantasy," "Irish Glow" and "Soul Shine," to name just a few. The Dahlias are in bloom from late July through November.

Dahlias have been on display as "San Francisco's flower" in Golden Gate Park for 100 years but are native to the mountainous regions of Mexico and Guatemala. History has it that Spanish Conquistadors learned of dahlias from the Aztecs, who cultivated them for food and medicine.

The plant known to the Aztecs consisted of a starchy tuber and an unremarkable, daisy-like bloom. That changed in the late 18th century when the tubers made their way from Mexico to Europe, where botany was evolving as a science. European botanists learned that dahlias could be easily "hybridized" through artificial cross-pollination to change their colors and forms. They quickly produced a myriad of colorful, decorative varieties.

Indeed, botanists named the plant after one of their own, Swedish botanist, Anders Dahl. The brilliant blooms of the new dahlia varieties took Europe by storm. Marie Antoinette, Josephine Bonaparte and Queen Victoria were all said to be early enthusiasts.

Today, growers have been able to hybridize 21 distinct forms of dahlias in 15 official colors, resulting in thousands of varieties. However, no one has ever been able to cultivate a blue dahlia.

"Life is better with dahlias," Dietz said.

The Dahlia Society of California's annual Dahlia Show is coming to Golden Gate Park this month. Free to the public, the floral fest will be at the Hall of Flowers (San Francisco County Fair Building) at Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way on Saturday, Aug. 17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Learn more at sfdahlias.org.

Late August and early September is the best time to see the dahlias in full bloom. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

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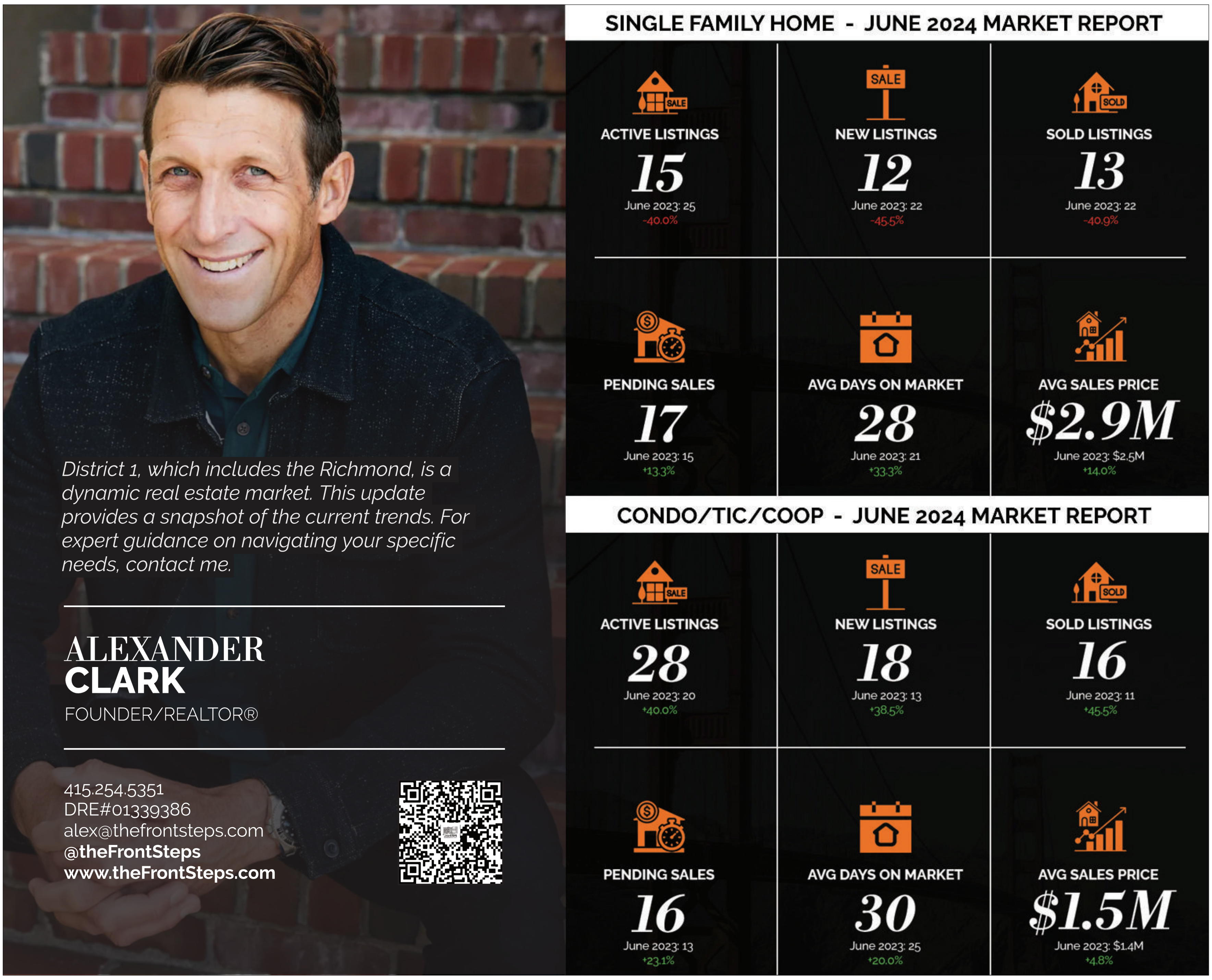

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SOLD LISTINGS 13 June 2023: 22 -40.9%
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AVG DAYS ON MARKET 28 June 2023: 21 +33.3%
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PENDING SALES 16 June 2023: 13 +23.1%
AVG DAYS ON MARKET 30 June 2023: 25 +20.0%
AVG SALES PRICE $1.5M June 2023: $1.4M +4.8%

District 1, which includes the Richmond, is a dynamic real estate market. This update provides a snapshot of the current trends. For expert guidance on navigating your specific needs, contact me.

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Real Estate

John M. Lee

The Right Time to Buy?

This is the question I get asked almost every day: “Is this the right time to buy real estate?” People ask this for several reasons depending on who they are.

Are they a first-time home buyer looking to move into their first home? Are they a trade up buyer looking for something larger and better? Are they investors wanting real estate income? Everyone is looking to make the right decision.

Another comment I often get is: “Why is San Francisco real estate so expensive? I don’t know if I will ever be able to afford a home here. Are you sure that this is a good investment?”

In order to answer these questions, let’s review the recent market to see where we are in the real estate cycle. My frequent readers can tell you that our real estate cycles are about 10 to 12 years long, with about seven years up and four years down to flat. We hit a low point in our cycle in 2010, and went up until about 2022, after COVID-19, and then we saw a drop. Now our prices have stabilized.

The most important factor that affected this cycle was the mortgage rate. We were at approximately 5% in 2010 and, through a series of fluctuations, went to about 2.75% at its low in 2022. There was one last big push in the market in the spring of 2022 before the rates went up to about 7.5% by the end of 2023.

Needless to say, this decreased the number of buyers in the marketplace and led to a slowdown from which we are recovering. We are currently two years into this down phase of the cycle and the interest rate is starting to decline. It is currently at about 6.5%. What has saved this market from plummeting any further is the “lock in” effect. That is, the buyers who purchased the last few years and owners who refinanced to the lower interest rates the last few years are deciding not to put their properties on the market, thus limiting our listing supply.

During the last down cycle, we also had the mortgage crisis where there were a lot of foreclosures. That added to the glut of homes on the market, fueling a downward spiral on prices. The lenders responded by tightening up underwriting guidelines to fix that problem. Although there are some foreclosures hitting the market, there have not been many, and these properties are mostly owned by well-funded entities and not banks that do not have federal oversight and do not have to unload properties at low prices. This helps to keep our real estate market prices stable.

When the interest rates were increasing, buyers were priced out of the market and also were sticker-shocked to see how much their projected monthly payments were rising. But since peaking, buyers have adjusted to the payments and prices, and have recalibrated their expectations.

If you had asked me a couple of years ago if that was the right time to buy, I would have said be careful because we were heading into an uncertain market. We were at the end of the cycle and interest rates were rising. Some still purchased because of a need to live somewhere and were still able to get into the market at lower interest rates.

Currently, we are in the flat part of the down cycle and with interest rates projected to decrease, the dangerous period is over. With the Democrats trying to win the November presidential election, they will do all they can to keep the economy going strong.

Also in most cycles, San Francisco has led the other surrounding areas in terms of pricing. But this time around, because of COVID-19, people are moving to less-dense areas, meaning out of the City. And with the availability of remote work, many employees do not have to commute every day and can manage from the suburbs. Prices in other areas have gone up faster than San Francisco of late, so you will probably see a rotation in the market where our prices will catch up.

What is the downside of buying now? The short answer is that prices will go down some more. Nobody can predict 100% accurately on pricing; however, prices have dropped from the peak already and seem to be stable at the moment. Real estate is a long-term investment, the worst you can do if you pay your monthly mortgage is that you will own your home free and clear after 30 years. And if rates were to decrease, you can always refinance to get a better rate. Now that is not a bad situation to be in.

So, if you are considering investing at this time, I would recommend evaluating everything carefully. If the right opportunity comes up, you should act on it!

John M. Lee is a broker with Compass specializing in the Richmond and Sunset districts. If you have any real estate questions, call him at 415-465-0505 or email johnlee@isellsf.com. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Richmond Homes Sold in July*

Address	Bed	Bath	Sq. Ft.	Price
610 23rd Ave.	3	2	1,450	$1,607,500
842 44th Ave.	3	2	2,455	1,800,000
436 42nd Ave.	3	2.5	2,050	1,885,000
362 Ewing Ter.	3	2	1,800	2,200,000
683 Spruce St.	4	3	2,100	2,400,000
655 Ninth Ave.	4	2.5	2,340	2,850,000
295 14th Ave.	5	4.5	3,799	3,475,000
297 30th Ave.	4	3.5	2,905	3,490,000
73 Fifth Ave.	4	3.5	2,762	4,100,000
1630 Lake St.	4	2.5	3,763	4,275,000
2901 Lake St.	4	3.5	4,177	4,500,000

**Partial listing. Source: M.L.S.*

Shelley Duvall Tribute

Continued from page 1

ebration for Duvall. Originally, Peterson pitched it as a celebration for Duvall’s 75th birthday. After her passing, the festival quickly became a celebration of Duvall’s life’s work.

Ryan McCandless, one of the cinema’s programmers, described the important “naturalism” of Duvall’s work.

“There’s a real alien, vulnerable and magnetic quality to her that’s naturally captivating,” McCandless said.

McCandless selected a few of Duvall’s guest-episode appearances and programs – such as in 1992 on “The Ray Bradbury Theater” and from 1995-97 on the “Wishbone” series – to offer fans between movie screenings. Some were familiar with them, while others were introduced to these roles for the first time.

Duvall’s entire repertoire was new to many attendees, who had been invited by friends or family. “The Shining” is one of patron Jason Szydlik’s favorite films.

“We’re so excited to bring the family,” he said. Szydlik’s daughter had read up on Duvall and was looking forward to her first screening of the movie. “She’s an absolute icon,” she chimed in.

Duvall’s work has exploded in popularity on TikTok during the past couple years, where she has further solidified her status as not only a great actress, but a pop-culture icon. Audio of her introducing herself on her series, “Faerie Tale Theatre,” has become an internet trend in recent years. Since her passing, millennial and Gen-Z users have posted short videos honoring her life.

“I’ve never seen acting better than hers,” one user posted. “You were too good for this world,” another wrote.

In the lobby of the cinema, Stella Puetz represented this sect of Duvall’s fanbase. With the phrase “I love Shelley” written proudly on her cheek and hand, Puetz solemnly reflected on Duvall’s legacy.

“She’s such an icon, such a style icon,” she said. “She’s quite spectacular, and just so cool, so authentic. You don’t see someone like that often.”

Attendee Robert Rogers agreed.

“I love that a starlet of her kind, who has so much charisma, was able to capture so many hearts and minds, not just in her generation, but in ours as well,” he said.

The movie house has utilized this online pull to connect with Duvall’s fans nationwide. Sarah Lukowski, head of the Shelley Duvall Archives, has shown support for the festival on social media.

“Throughout the process she’s just been super sweet and super supportive,” Peterson said of Lukowski. “It’s kind of forming national friendships around Shelley Duvall, which is really sweet too.”

This communal love of Duvall felt very present as Kubrick’s film started. As the first chilling notes played, there was a collective excitement and yearning within the audience, both from those who knew every word of “The Shining” and those who were ready to be immersed in a new world.

The excitement quickly turned to laughter and confusion as an employee in the booth shuttered the film a couple minutes in, waiting for many people in the lobby to find their seats.

“That’s a first,” one attendee said with a laugh.

Peterson confirmed that it was one of the first times the theater had to do something like that, due to the number of people waiting to get into the space.

“It was really amazing to see how many folks came out,” Peterson said.

After the delay, the entire audience filed into the theater, and the movie began again. As Duvall’s name appeared in that iconic, neon blue text over the aerial shots of vast and secluded mountains, the packed house erupted in applause and reverence – a sentiment which continued until the final credit rolled.

The 4 Star Theater will screen Shelley Duvall’s “Faerie Tale Theatre” episodes on Aug. 11. Learn more at 4-star-movies.com.

Richmond Word Search

By Jess Goldstein

Find the 18 Richmond District streets, parks, and landmarks hidden in this grid. Answers may be horizontal, vertical, and diagonal.

Anza
Argonne
Arguello
Baker Beach
Balboa
Cabrillo
California
Clement
Fulton
Funston
Geary
Lake Street
Lands End
Lincoln Park
Mountain Lake
Presidio
Richmond
Sutro Heights

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N T A R E K A L N I A T N U O M N N I E R
I K I G O O G E T H L E S N R S G H S T K
T E R O S A I N R O F I L A C O C T B R R
I N E N L K H N A I A O S A R A N L A L A
A O A N O E T E N N N N O T L U F R K E P
B L E E Y T G L R L Z D O U N F S S E L N
F C E S B E E E I N E A N B T T L L R S L
I M E C N E E E H B N T O O H U K A B L O
G S N R O R N T R O A S C G M E L P E G C
C L E M E N T L L T O L I R R H R O A N N
F P I N L L L L L L S E B C N E C Y C A I
U U Z U O I E B O E H E A O S A I I H L L
H P N T N U D D U O L O K I A S I E R K B
E A C S G T N R R O Z A D A B R U A E A Y
T T E R T B O T N T E I N C L H A E T D R
A K A L I O U I S M O L E D I R E A O K A
U O C T N S N A L O D A A A S T E I A N E
U S N C N F S D C A E L L L N E T A O T G
T A F O L C R S R O U U O M R I N F Y D H
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'PHOTOS OF THE MONTH' ONLINE GALLERY

Photographers are invited to submit three of their best photos for consideration to be published in the "Photos of the Month" gallery on RichmondSunsetNews.com. The website averages 20,000 views per month. Please submit photos as jpegs on the 15th of each month. For more information, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com or call 415-706-6428.

OUTSIDE LANDS
AUG 9-11 2024 · GOLDEN GATE PARK · SAN FRANCISCO, CA

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+ CONCERTS +

Dear Golden Gate Park Neighbor,

Another Planet Entertainment and Superfly Presents, in association with San Francisco's Recreation and Park Department and the City of San Francisco are producing the 16th Annual Outside Lands in Golden Gate Park (Polo Field, Hellman Hollow, Marx & Lindley Meadows), taking place 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Friday, August 9th – Sunday, August 11th, 2024. Outside Lands will be followed by a standalone concert in the Polo Field on Saturday, August 17th, 2024, 1:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Outside Lands works closely with all San Francisco Agencies, especially Recreation and Parks Department, SFPD, SFFD, SFMTA, and SFDPH to produce a safe, healthy, smooth, and successful event for San Francisco.

We at Outside Lands care deeply about Golden Gate Park and the surrounding communities. In our first 16 years, we've contributed over $40 million to San Francisco's Recreation & Parks Department to maintain and preserve the most beautiful urban park system in the country. Additionally, we recognize our event's impact on the neighborhood, and work hard to mitigate that effect. Please use this letter as a planning tool to help during the upcoming weeks.

BELOW IS HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR THE COMING WEEKS IN AND AROUND GOLDEN GATE PARK

Before the Festival

If you have any inquiries before the festival weekend begins related to road closures, site restrictions in Golden Gate Park, or other general concerns, please send an email to **community@sfoutsidelands.com.** For the most up-to-date information on Outside Lands as it pertains to you, please go to: **www.SFOutsideLands.com/311**

Community Hotline: (415) 965-8001

The Community Hotline will be staffed to respond to any issues during the following dates and times:

- Thursday, August 8th, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, August 9th – Sunday, August 11th (festival days), 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
- Friday, August 16th, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 17th (concert day), 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Parking and Alternative Means of Transportation:

To help alleviate vehicle congestion in your neighborhood, we strongly encourage patrons to take alternative means of transportation to the festival, including MUNI, private shuttles, biking, or walking.

During event days, we will have two dedicated tow trucks and one Parking Control Officer on each side of the Park to quickly respond to blocked driveways or any other parking issues related to the festival. SF Rec & Parks has printed signs alerting attendees to not block driveways. More copies of this notice may be obtained at the front desk of SFPD Richmond Station at 461 6th Avenue. **If you need to have a vehicle towed, please call 311.**

Park Access and Road Closures

Please refer to the map on the back of this letter for road and location closure dates and details.

Note from SFMTA Regarding Blocking your Own Driveway:

SFMTA rules state that it is OK to park in the street and block one's own driveway as long as the driveway does not serve more than 2 tenants. Any multifamily units of 3 or more cannot block the driveway.

During Outside Lands, SFMTA will enforce blocked driveways on a complaint basis only, giving a better cushion for residents. Please note that vehicles may never park over the sidewalk.

For the most up-to-date information on Outside Lands as it pertains to you, please go to:
www.SFOutsideLands.com/311
Para información en español acerca de la Outside Lands Music & Arts Festival,
por favor vaya a:
www.SFOutsideLands.com/311
有關此項 Outside Lands 音樂和藝術節活動的中文資料,請上網

Find an archive of Richmond Review
stories and columns online: RichmondSunsetNews.com

Commentary

Quentin L. Kopp

The Messy Business of Politics

Over five years ago, I opined in these pages about then U.S. Senator Kamala Harris and her dishonesty in securing $97,000 from California taxpayers as a member of the California Unemployment Insurance Board to which she was appointed in 1993 by her boyfriend Willie Brown, then-Assembly Speaker, while simultaneously paid by Alameda County taxpayers as an Alameda County deputy district attorney, supposedly a full-time endeavor. The following year (1994), she was named to the California Medical Commission at an even higher tax-paid salary which was increased in 1998 to $99,000 per year. Somehow, she evaded a state law prohibiting payment for two jobs which might result in conflicting responsibilities.

Harris did not, however, escape attention from the San Diego Union Tribute which noted that those two state commissions were often condemned by taxpayers for "allow(ing) politically connected people with no experience … to earn large salaries for jobs that are less than full-time." The once-published muck-raking San Francisco Bay Guardian's Savannah Blackwell wrote that Harris possessed no experience at her (then age 30) "to qualify her to oversee the work of 15 staff members who negotiate Medi-Cal reimbursement rates with state hospitals."

She was just starting her self-serving governmental deviance. Raised in Berkeley and residing in S.F., she inveigled District Attorney Terence Hallinan to hire her as a deputy district attorney paid over $100,000 annually. How did she thank Terence who's now deceased? She ran against him in 2003 to prevent Terence, a veteran criminal lawyer, from re-election. By 2003, San Francisco had foolishly been persuaded by Common Cause to adopt public financing of political campaigns for public office, another City Hall mistake to fleece taxpayers to pay money to political candidates. Eligibility rules for qualifying for such taxpayer money included a maximum campaign expenditure. For Harris, it was $211,000.

That didn't deter this ambitious politician. Harris spent $1.15 million emanating from Pacific Heights "swells" and other donors. She was then the object of an Ethics Commission complaint for violating the public financing law. It wasn't a new experience for this grifter. In 2000, while managing then-Supervisor Amos Brown's campaign for re-election, she failed to notify the public of the mailing of two political Brown brochures within the time required by law. (Harris was then an Alameda County deputy district attorney.)

The Ethics Commission eventually found Harris guilty in 2003 of violating her signed declaration under penalty of perjury not to exceed $211,000 in campaign spending for S.F. district attorney. She sent an aide to try to withdraw her oath at the Ethics Commission which rejected such effort. The maximum penalty was $275,000 under San Francisco's ordinance. The weak-kneed Ethics Commission also could have disqualified her and barred her from public office in San Francisco for five years. Instead, it fined her a mere $34,000 and she became our top prosecutor at the expense of the public servant who hired her and obeyed the public finance law, Terry Hallinan.

Harris, of course, should not even have been S.F.'s district attorney, as Blackwell observed in September 2005 in the former SFProgressive.com. Later, as a U.S. senator, Harris pretended she knew nothing about the December 2018 settlement of a harassment suit against a top aide in her office for $400,000 of taxpayer money. Political commentator Dan Walters wrote on Dec. 18, 2018, in Cal Matters, "It seems incredible that Harris would have been kept in the dark about a harassment allegation against one of her closest aides, and the secret payoff that made it go away. That's especially true since Harris has made sexual harassment a touchstone in preparing for a presidential run."

It has been said that: "A true test of a person's character is not what that person does in the light, but what that person does in the dark." Visualizing Ms. Harris as president of these United States makes me fear for the future of our country. Coupled with the Republican Party's candidate, convicted felon Donald J. Trump, we Americans possess little choice on Nov. 5, 2024.

I've been voting since November 1949 and have never missed voting in a national, state or local election. Realizing California is a one-party state, and my vote means nothing as an Independent, I seek suggestions. Should I write myself in as president? No, I'm too old for the responsibilities of our commander-in-chief. Maybe "third party" aspirants will make the ballot.

I'm lost after U.S. Sen. J.D. Vance changed his opposition to Trump for selection as the draft dodger, cheater and liar's vice-presidential candidate. Maybe another American will appear as Wendell Wilkie did futilely in 1940 or Harry S. Truman in 1948. For now, it's bleak. Meanwhile, both candidates are college graduates, and it's observed that: "College is a place that's presumed to mold character, and some of the students turn out to be very moldy!"

To supply relief to our national political predicament, I learned late last month of a needed reconstruction of the American Independent Party, at least in California, under the leadership of Victor Marani, one-time aide to the late state Senator Henry Mello (Santa Cruz County), former Democratic Caucus chairman in the 1980s and '90s when I was a state senator. That party was established in 1968 by then Democratic Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama to enable his candidacy for U.S. president and perpetuate segregation of African Americans. Its existence also affected adversely efforts four years ago to create in California an Independent Party because the California secretary of state ruled that you can't qualify for the ballot from another political party with the word "Independent" in its name, which could confuse voters.

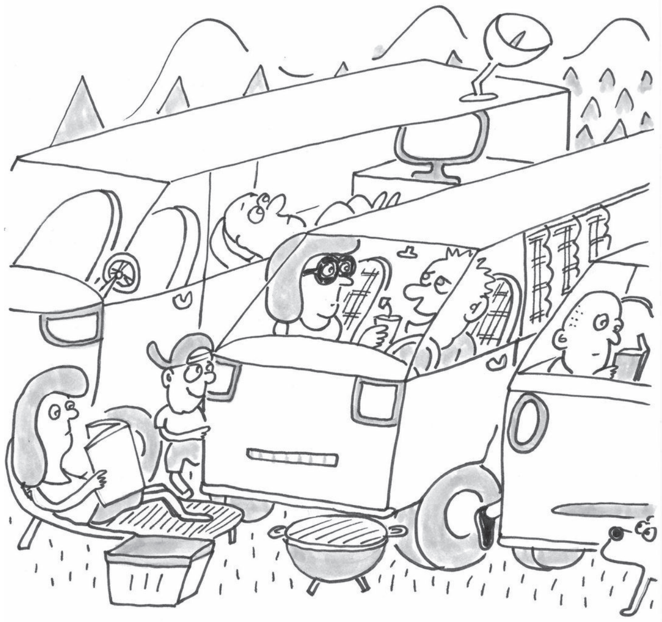
Now, with Mr. Marani as California chairman, the American Independent Party merits membership for voters like me who are officially labeled "No Party Preference" under bipartisan legislation enacted after I left the state senate in 1998 to eliminate Independent as a political appellation. As Mr. Marani of Aptos, California, in Santa Cruz County, declares: "It's time for California to declare independence from the antiquated two-party system … and join the American Independent Party of California today!" It's a new day for true Americans without deceased Alabama Gov. George Wallace and his discriminatory policies doctrine.

In a Jan. 4, 1953, This Week Magazine interview, Carl Sandberg said: "I see America not in the setting sun of a black night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun, fresh from the burning, creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible for men and women of will and vision."

Quentin Kopp is a former San Francisco supervisor, state senator, SF Ethics Commission member, president of the California High Speed Rail Authority governing board and retired Superior Court judge.

Kilduff's Korner

By Paul Kilduff



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Assembly

Assemblymember Phil Ting

Streamlined Teacher Credentialing

School is starting up again in a few short weeks, and many parents are concerned about a teacher shortage that many states are experiencing. Here in California, we have taken another step to attract more people into the profession – thanks to recently enacted legislation.

Prior to this summer, candidates for a teaching credential had to demonstrate basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics through one of several options, including passage of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST). Now, potential educators can satisfy that requirement if they hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution. This change will benefit the vast majority of prospective teachers in our state.

Members of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing have long considered the assessment system of future educators overly burdensome. They have been looking at ways to improve that process. While California has been moving away from standardized testing for teacher candidates for years, most are still opting to take one of the qualifying exams.

However, almost half of our state's potential teachers have struggled to pass the standardized tests required to earn a credential, according to the commission's data. Those numbers have prompted one organization, Public Advocates, to call CBEST a barrier for educators of color. It's concerning when there's a lack of diversity among our teacher ranks because our kids lose out on learning from educators who come from various backgrounds and experiences.

Plus, one exam doesn't capture other appealing qualities of an educator – passion, commitment and resourcefulness among them. To many, including me, it makes no sense to require demonstrated competency in reading, writing and math when the person already has a four-year degree or higher. By counting coursework from colleges and universities as one of the requirements for a teacher credential, we open the career door to so many more qualified candidates.

Accepting a higher education degree as one of the credentialing requirements is a helpful step in addressing our teacher shortage. According to the commission's annual report to the Legislature for the 2022-23 school year, there was an 11% decrease in the number of new teacher credentials issued compared to the prior year. When there aren't enough people to fill these positions, we end up with high teacher-to-student ratios. Learning is impacted when teachers are spread too thin with too many students.

This new change to the credentialing process complements our prior work to attract more people to teaching. In my prior role as Assembly budget chair, we allocated about $1.6 billion in grants and state funding over several years to recruit, train and retain new teachers. We also recently funded eight career counselors for the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to provide one-on-one assistance to anyone interested in becoming an educator. These experienced staff members serve as career counselors, subject matter experts and resource specialists to make the journey into a TK-12 educational career easier.

But the state cannot address the teacher shortage alone. If you know a young person starting their college career with an interest in teaching, I encourage you to help them seek more information about it. Even people wanting to change careers may also want to get into the profession. The California College Corps provides would-be teachers with real-life tutoring experience, and Teach California offers step-by-step guidance for anyone wanting to be a teacher.

We urgently need more teachers to help our kids build brighter futures.

Phil Ting represents the 19th Assembly District, which includes the west side of San Francisco along with the communities of Broadmoor, Colma and Daly City as well as part of South San Francisco. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

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Commentary

Brian Quan

More Housing Needed on West Side

With the November general election fast approaching, we've seen our local elected officials put their focus toward the controversial topic of housing and the City's zoning laws.

At the Planning Association for the Richmond (PAR) town hall on March 6, the Neighborhoods United SF town hall in the Sunset on April 11 and in District 7 on June 5, mayoral hopeful and current Board President Aaron Peskin took residents' input on the City's potential upzoning plans. Many believe it could negatively affect the west side due to increased height limits for new housing developments. Is this shift toward a battle with the state-imposed mandate to plan for 82,000 new units by 2032 a constructive effort with other priorities looming?

Comments from those attending the town halls would give the impression that the west side is under assault from potential skyscrapers that would simultaneously lower property values while raising the values that would lead to gentrification and displacement. Worst of all, people's precious views of the bay and the ocean would be blocked! There are even claims that this is all unnecessary. Comments ranged from citing large numbers of vacant units that include temporary vacancies, to asking for downzoning from the currently allowed four stories to saying we shouldn't even permit more than three stories in places. And there was the evergreen railing against capitalism because someone is making money from housing.

Sadly, comments like these have not changed since the last Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) cycle when Eric Mar was our supervisor. This constant and consistent opposition to new housing has led to the minuscule amounts of housing built in the Richmond and the surrounding westside neighborhoods compared to other parts of the City. More recently it led to the delay of even 100% affordable housing projects like 2550 Irving St. which finally broke ground this past month or the Shirley Chisholm Village teacher housing that was stalled for nearly two decades. While new housing and developments can bring certain challenges to any neighborhood, these are the trade-offs we need to acknowledge rather than bury our heads in the sand to keep any change from occurring. Not everyone will come out as winners, but we can protect the vulnerable and mitigate harmful changes.

In the last decade we've built a grand total of 190 units in the Richmond District, according to SF Planning. Unlike many of the older buildings that make up our neighborhood, new buildings would be up to the newest building codes and should be safer and more accessible to seniors. The new construction would also bring jobs to the area and likely even families that would help with SFUSD's enrollment declines. The new residents would hopefully shop locally – at worst it would provide more property taxes to fund city programs.

Yet here in SF and around the Bay Area, we see how these tactics to delay and deny housing are soon to be subject to severe penalties by the state for those not actively working to solve our collective housing crisis. Most recently in Half Moon Bay, a community effort to shrink a 100% affordable farm-worker housing project has put them in the cross hairs of the state's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) with a ruling that a subjective standard of "neighborhood character" was specifically disallowed as a basis for disapproving, reducing density or rendering unfeasible a housing development project under the Housing Accountability Act (HAA). This is happening because one of the big changes to the current cycle of RHNA was the addition of the goal of "affirmatively furthering fair housing" (AFFH) to combat housing discrimination, eliminate racial bias, undo historic patterns of segregation, and lift barriers that restrict access in order to foster inclusive communities and achieve racial equity, fair housing choice and opportunity for all Californians.

Instead of the exclusionary intent that comes from trying to preserve our neighborhood in amber, we should be advocates for things we want to see. Identifying where and how much more housing we can be providing goes further to keep us out of the HCD's doghouse where we can follow the examples of some of the housing that was previously built by repurposing gas stations and parking lots.

Either we support a blanket rezoning across the west side that enables more potential everywhere or we support even taller heights and densities along transit corridors, but we need to be doing our part.

Should we continue to give anyone the ability to throw up a roadblock and force concessions that impart higher costs on everyone else? This is not a call for deregulation, but to highlight that we are not a homeowners' association that is in place to regulate every little detail of our neighborhood and what others are allowed to do and not do. Neighborhood character is not preserved through exclusion but by active cultivation. Our neighborhood character exists because we built houses that were in demand and people moved in.

Brian Quan is a Richmond District native, co-leader of Grow the Richmond, member of the Park Presidio-Sunset Lions Club and participant in monthly RefuseRefuse street clean-ups.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAZAAR CAFE EVENTS

Free events at Bazaar Cafe, 5927 California St. All events at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- Music: Friday, Aug. 2 – High Tatras; Saturday, Aug. 3 – K Clarence w/ Bernie Jungle; Saturday Aug. 10 – Aleta Simone and Erica Ballinger, two generations of Bazaar songwriters; Saturday Aug. 17 – Sweet Ruckus with Shawn Byron, sweet folk and harmonies; Sunday, Aug. 18, noon – EG Phest; Saturday, Aug. 24 – Miles Gordon w/ Sadie Alan and Jake Soffer; Saturday, Aug. 31 Sabrina Saed and Shelby Natasha, stirring songs from Seattle.
- Comedy: Third Fridays – Danny Dechi Comedy Showcase
- Kids Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. See calendar for musical and other activities.

Visit bazaarcafe.com for details and any changes.

CASTING CALL

Calling all young (18 and under) readers of the Richmond Review: We're filming a short (one minute) local ad for the newspaper which will run at the 4 Star and Balboa theaters. SF LOCAL SPOTLIGHT is a new grassroots community program spotlighting small businesses at independent neighborhood cinemas in San Francisco. Interested? Contact Nate Zack: nbzack@gmail.com.

CLEMENT STREET ART WALK

Clement Street Art Walk is a monthly community evening event bringing local art to the small businesses on Clement Street. Listen to live music, mingle with your neighbors and enjoy local artists featured at your favorite small businesses while you shop local. Every third Thursday of the month, 5-8 p.m. on Clement Street from Arguello Boulevard to Park Presidio Boulevard (and beyond)! Learn more at clementstreetsf.com.

CIVIC JOY FUND CLEANUP

Help clean up around Blue Heron Lake in Golden Gate Park with Rec. and Park. Meet at Blue Heron Boathouse on Saturday, Aug. 3 at 10 a.m. Sign up here: https://app.heylo.co/event.

COMMENTARIES AND LETTERS

From the editor: All commentaries we publish are the opinions of the writers and should not be considered our editorial stances on issues. We strive to remain neutral and offer a balance of viewpoints. We invite readers who wish to express their opinions to send a letter to the editor to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Word limit for the newspaper is 350, for the website, 500. RichmondSunsetNews.com.

DAHLIA DELL RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

The Dahlia Society of California will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new hillside garden at the Dahlia Dell east of the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park on Sunday, Aug. 4 at 10:30 a.m. Free guided tours available to the public at 11 and 11:30 a.m.

DAHLIA SHOW

The Dahlia Society of California's annual Dahlia Show is coming back to Golden Gate Park. Free to the public, this must-see floral fest will be at the Hall of Flowers (San Francisco County Fair Building) at Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17, and from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 18. Learn more at sfdahlias.org.

FELTON TECH SQUAD

Felton's Tech Squad is providing free basic tech support for older adults and people with disabilities in the Richmond District. Ask questions regarding how to navigate your smartphone, tablet or laptop. Drop-in for one-on-one session in English, Friday, Aug. 2, 1:30-3 p.m. at the Richmond Branch Library (351 Ninth Ave.). For more information, call 415-474-1558 or email techsquad@felton.org.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Richmond Neighborhood Center is seeking dedicated volunteers to help at our food pantries this summer. Assist us in providing essential support to families in need. Sign up today at richmondsf.org/get-involved/volunteer.

FREE EVENTS AT THE SF PUBLIC LIBRARY, RICHMOND BRANCH
351 NINTH AVE., 415-355-5600

CHILDREN/FAMILY PROGRAMS:

"Storytime: For Babies" Playtime follows directly after the storytime. Limited to 46 participants, tickets required. Mondays, 11-11:30 a.m.

"Storytime: For Toddlers." Playtime follows directly after storytime, 10th Ave. Park. Some blankets and chairs provided. In case of extreme weather, storytime will be held inside. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11-11:30 a.m.

"Workshop: Henna Body Art with Rachel-Anne Palacios." Learn how to apply henna body art with local artist Rachel-Anne Palacios. For ages 5–13. Space is limited. Reservations required: 415-355-5610. Tuesday, Aug. 13, 3-4 p.m.

"Activity: Lego Free Play." Build skyscrapers, forts, castles or whatever your imagination desires with LEGOs. For ages 5 and older. Aug. 27, 3:30-5 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS/TWEENS/TEENS:

"Activity: Play Dough." Put on your scientist hat and mix together different household ingredients to make play dough. For ages 7–18. Space is limited. Thursday, Aug. 8, 3-5 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES:

"Refuse Refuse: Neighborhood cleanup and Storytime." Led by community member Vince Yuen, meet at the 10th Avenue door of the Richmond Library to help with neighborhood cleanup. Every second Tuesday of the month. Aug. 13, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

"Performance: Kathak Dance with SF Kala Kendra." Learn about Kathak dance, one of the eight major forms of Indian classical dance. Participate and learn a few moves from this centuries-old North Indian art form. Saturday, Aug. 31, 11-11:45 a.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

"Breath meditation and Gentle Yoga with Don Narin." Guided meditation for calming and joint stress release with gentle form of yoga that anyone can do. No movement beyond what is comfortable for you. Very relaxing and calming. Every Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon.

"Tutorial: Drop-In Tech Support for Older Adults with the Felton Institute Tech Squad." Get one-on-one help with your phone or tablet, searching the internet, setting up an email account and other basic computer tasks. Cantonese-speaking Tech Squad members are available to assist, Friday, Aug. 2, 1:30-3 p.m.

"Presentation: Prague Through the Eyes of Its Writers." Take a virtual walking tour through the beautiful, historic city of Prague and see landmarks that have played important roles in the lives of writers like Franz Kafka, Karel Čapek, Rainer Maria Rilke and others throughout the centuries in this multimedia presentation. Led by one of our Richmond team who spends part of every year in Prague leading the IRL version of this tour. Participants will receive a Prague reading list and a special surprise. Sunday, Aug. 4, 2-3 p.m.

"Workshop: Artful Stitches." Learn to draw with thread, creating an original work of art. Nichole Talbott of Asé Arts will guide attendees through several classic hand-embroidery techniques. With tips and tricks on how to achieve your desired design. Embroidery is a great way to develop your creativity in new and uncharted ways. The tactical, meditative and repetitive practice of stitching rewires neurons and establishes fresh creative pathways. No prior experience is required. This is a beginner-level workshop, but open to more advanced embroiderers who want to tap into the centering practice of embroidery. All materials needed for the workshop will be provided. Space limited. Reservations are required: 415-355-5600. Tuesday, Aug. 6, 6-7:30 p.m.

"Tutorial: Tech Savy at 60+." Learn basics of tablets and iPhones. It is a seven-class series. Please bring your own devices: Apple/Android. The class is taught in Cantonese. Space is limited, call 415-355-5600 to reserve a space. This program is in partnership with Self-Help for the Elderly. Wednesday, Aug. 7, 1:30-2:15 p.m.

"Read Together, Silent Book Club." Bring any book (fiction or nonfiction) for a period of silent reading followed by a discussion when you share what you are reading with others. The club meets every other Wednesday, Aug. 7 and 21, 3-5 p.m.

"Film: Amateur on Plastic." Byron Henry "Butch" Willis is a Washington, D.C. rock legend. Born and raised in 1960s suburban Maryland, Willis came of age in the late '70s post-hippie subculture. After sharing an apartment with infamous local music icon Root Boy Slim, Willis was inspired to become a rock'n'roll star himself. Behind-the-scenes glimpses of the label's concerts and private parties provide much of the background and feature members of the bands Unrest, Versus, Tuscadero and more. – IMBD. NR, 73 mins., 2020. Special thanks to Director Mark Robinson for granting us permission to share this film. Thursday, Aug. 15, 6-7:15 p.m.

"Performance: Sidewalk Series featuring Local Bands and DJs." Two-day summer music event presented with BFF.FM and Bay Beats. Celebrate the end of summer in San Francisco with the Richmond Branch Sidewalk Music Series Aug. 17 and 24. An eclectic lineup of six local artists performing outside at the 10th Avenue playground. Between sets enjoy the local sounds of Bff.fm internet radio playing a wide variety of music. Picnic-style seating, some blankets and chairs provided.

"Mister Baby, Arts and Crafts with Al Harper." Saturday, Aug. 17, 1-5 p.m.

"Hectorine, cuupi, Bay Beats Artist." Saturday, Aug. 24, 1-5 p.m. San Francisco Public Library's Bay Beats is an exciting new local music streaming service that champions the exciting musical talent in our own Bay Area backyard.

"Activity: Jewelry Making." Create your own jewelry with beads and stones. Space is limited. Reservations required: 415-355-5600. Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2-3:30 p.m.

"Film: 'Half Cocked.'" Tara (Tara Jane O'Neil) is growing weary of her slacker life. When her brother Otis, an arrogant rocker lead vocalist, abuses Tara after a show, she and her pals hijack his van (full of band equipment), hit the road and form their own band. The film features Ian Svenonius and members of Rodan and The Grifters, playing versions of themselves. With music by Unwound, Slant 6, Freakwater, Versus, Polvo, Smog, Helium and others. "Strikingly true-to-life wry comic veracity." – Variety. "An 'Easy Rider' for the '90s and deserves as much attention." - The Alternative Press. Special thanks to Director Suki Hawley for granting us permission to share this film. "Half Cocked" is available for streaming via Kanopy with your library card. NR, 90 min., 1995. Closed captions (CC) in English. Thursday, Aug. 22, 6-7:30 p.m.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy August birthday to Emily Bartoli, Anthony Byrne, Tracy Caldwell, Shirley Chan, Wyatt Chow, Matt Craig, Dennis Cresci, Mauna Dasari, Julia Elkin, Jonathan Farrell, Noma Faingold, Teresa Hansell, Chris Huson, Cordelia J, Tracy L. Johnson, Shweta Maurya, Montana McMorrow, Rowen Meck, Cheryl Overend, Alex Rodier, Jordan Singh, Jon Sugar, Sky Tafoya, Farley "How do you eat with those hands?" Tolpen, Chris Traina, Chi-ai Wang, Cy Welle, Jennifer Wong, Christina Woo, Francis Woo and Jacob Zwart. *To add a name to the monthly birthday list, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Free.*

HEART OF THE RICHMOND DISTRICT NIGHT MARKET

This engaging and entertaining event in the Central Richmond District is a family-friendly event highlighting the diverse offerings from small local businesses and will appeal to people of all ages – locals and visitors alike. Activities and booths will include arts and crafts, carnival-style games, small business vendors, resources from community organizations, activities, performances and dining with pre-packaged food options. Providing a fun and festive night out in the neighborhood will introduce locals and visitors to the welcoming and diverse community and increase support for local small businesses. The third of four night markets will take place on Saturday, Aug. 17, 4-8 p.m. on Clement Street between 22nd and 25th avenues. Learn more at heartoftherichmonddistrictnightmarket.com.

INNER SUNSET FREE FIX-IT FAIR SUNDAY

We'll try to fix anything – except electronics and relations – for free. Yes, for free. No hidden charges, no fees, no gobbledegook. Bring your wobbly, chipped, loose, broken, frayed, splintered, torn, cracked or severed item. If we can't fix it, we'll give you twice your money back. Please bring repair supplies, if possible. 502 Irving at Sixth Ave., Sunday, Aug. 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (last item taken in at 3 p.m.). Volunteers welcome: please call Barbara: 415-246-4748, or email barbara@barbara.com.

MEET THE EDITOR OF THE RICHMOND REVIEW

Meet the editor of the Richmond Review: You are invited to meet with Michael Durand, editor and publisher of the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers and the RichmondSunsetNews.com website. Bring your story ideas, feedback, suggestions, questions, announcement items and advertising inquiries. We are also welcoming new writers and photographers interested in contributing stories and photos. The Meet the Editor session is at the One Richmond storefront, 802 Clement St. and corresponds with the monthly Clement Street Art Walk. Every third Thursday of the month. Aug. 15, 4-6 p.m. For more information, call 415-706-6428 or email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Scheduled appointments not necessary but appreciated.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

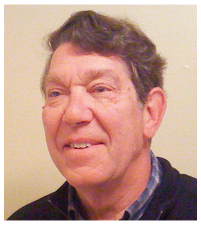
Join SFPD's Richmond Station at the annual National Night Out event on Aug. 6, 4-7 p.m. in Golden Gate Park at JFK Promenade and Sixth Avenue (skate park). Stop by the Richmond Review desk and say hi! "Together we are making communities safer and more caring places to live and work."

PIANO LESSONS

With my unique teaching method, I will show you how to find every chord on the keyboard – major, minor, sharp and flat – in the first lesson. Then I'll show you how to start playing

Continued on page 13

Commentary



Paul Kozakiewicz

West Side Thrown Under the Bus

So much for transparency!

District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio worked for months to plot the closure of the Upper Great Highway (UGH) to vehicular traffic but said nothing to the people he works for. He did not speak with local residents, community groups or merchant organizations in the Sunset, Parkside and Richmond districts while the city attorney's office was drafting and reviewing language for the ballot measure.

On June 18, the last day that the SF Board of Supervisors could put an initiative on the Nov. 5 ballot, Engardio pounced, with the assistance of District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar, and sent the legislation to the SF Department of Elections.

The rationale that Engardio used to justify putting the fate of the UGH in citywide voters' hands boggles the mind. He says the board of supervisors will make a decision next year to close the UGH to private vehicles and that this way, District 4 residents can vote now to keep it open. He implies he knows who will win the six supervisors' seats up for grabs as well as the race for mayor. Did the people of the Sunset know they were hiring a fortune-telling Nostradamus as their supervisor?

Plan Does Not Make Sense

Engardio's initiative to close the UGH will go before a citywide electorate, where the bicycle coalition, Walk SF and other anti-vehicle regressive organizations will harp the benefits of a great oceanside park. It will be a tough for Sunset residents to get the word out with less than three months to go before votes start rolling in.

Engardio's ballot measure would:

- Create more divisiveness on the west side of the City by pitting neighbor against neighbor – those who need the roadway for safe, efficient and climate-friendly transportation against those who believe a great park will draw visitors from around the world.
- Immediately stop the three-year pilot program currently in force on the UGH that allows commuters to use the roadway during weekdays and closes the roadway for other uses on the weekends. (The current pilot program is set to expire at the end of 2025.)
- Foreclose any compromise solution where vehicles could be allowed co-access with bikers and pedestrians, including a proposal by District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan to keep two lanes open for traffic and dedicating two lanes for other uses.
- Not provide research, studies or money to create or even study the possibilities of a new park. Engardio's measure only halts private vehicles from using the UGH. His grand park is only a pipe dream.
- Divert up to 20,000 vehicles a day from the UGH to Sunset Boulevard and 19th Avenue, two high-risk injury corridors, in direct conflict with the City's Vision Zero plan. With more vehicles driving longer distances with more stops, it is obvious there will be more air pollution.
- The UGH would still have to be maintained as a roadway, with constant sand removal, as the initiative allows police, fire and city vehicles 24-hour access.

At a meeting of the People of the Parkside Sunset (POPS) in July, mayoral candidate Dan Lurie took a principled stand to oppose the closing of the UGH because it is not well thought out and because of the sneaky way it was put on the ballot.

"This isn't how you govern," Lurie said.

Mayoral candidate and SF Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin and Chan also oppose the initiative.

Sunset Residents Misled, Lied To

The UGH was closed to vehicle traffic in 2020 so city residents could have some open space during the COVID-19 international health crisis. At the time, public officials guaranteed the traffic closures would be temporary.

That changed when then-District 4 Supervisor Gordon Mar proposed a plan to close the roadway to traffic from Fridays at noon until Monday mornings. He subsequently got the supervisors to sign-off on the three-year pilot program.

It was just two years ago when Sunset and Richmond residents were forced to fight for the reopening of the UGH and JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park. They worked hard to get it on the ballot (Proposition I) but the fight was lost when several members of the SF Board of Supervisors put a competing measure on the ballot (Proposition J).

Now, Sunset and Richmond district residents have to rally again because Engardio has thrown them under the bus.

With little more than three months until the election, they have to raise money, seek endorsements, gather ballot arguments, organize volunteers, print literature, conduct press conferences, create a speakers' bureau and all of the other things necessary to run a citywide campaign. And it will be difficult to win in November when San Francisco voters see that our supervisor, as well as SF Mayor London Breed, fully support the closure of the roadway for the promise of a non-existent park.

But, only the voters in District 4 will determine Engardio's fate if there is a recall election or when he is up for re-election in 2026.

SFPUC Only "Retreating" Roadway

Engardio says the closure of the UGH between Sloat Boulevard and Skyline Drive is a done deal, and that vehicle traffic will have to be diverted around the SF Zoo. The SF Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) originally called for the Westside Treatment Center and a portion of the UGH to be vacated so the Pacific Ocean could claim a part of the beach for "managed retreat." It was too expensive to shore up the beach with rocks and sand every year, the SFPUC said.

But a funny thing happened a couple of months ago. The SFPUC now says it will build a seawall and dump sand in as needed to protect the Westside Treatment Center. So much for managed retreat.

According to the SFPUC's website (sfpuc.gov), the plan is to "construct a buried wall to protect wastewater infrastructure and recycled water facilities from shoreline erosion, and cover with sand every year, as needed, to maintain a wider beach." (This has the surfer community up in arms as it risks one of the best spots for surfing in the City.)

So now we are back where we started, except for the removal of the UGH in that area.

It could be argued that the SFPUC's plan harms the environment more than it helps by needlessly redirecting traffic to longer commutes through the neighborhood with many more stops.

Engardio should be fighting to reopen the UGH between Sloat and Skyline boulevards, and to restore the roadway back to the way it was before the phony claims of "managed retreat" were used to close the roadway.

Send Money, Volunteer

The Open the Great Highway organization has been working to reopen the roadway since politicians first started lying about it. To volunteer or to donate, go to openthegreathighway.com.

Paul Kozakiewicz is an editor and former publisher of the Sunset Beacon and Richmond Review newspapers.

POLICE BLOTTER

Burglary, Forcible Entry: 5300 Block of Geary Boulevard, June 26, 3:21 p.m.

Officers responded to a burglary in progress.

The officers observed suspects entering their vehicle, then attempted a felony stop.

The suspect vehicle and patrol car collided into each other. Two suspects exited their vehicle and officers began a foot pursuit.

A third suspect reversed the vehicle down the street, then abandoned the vehicle and ran.

All the suspects were lost in the area along with additional suspect vehicles.

The abandoned suspect vehicle had loaded Glock 27 firearm with extended magazine on driver's seat along with full cigarette cartoons stolen from the store. Also located was an abandoned hoodie and mask from one of the suspects.

Video footage showed seven suspects looting the store of cigarette cartons after ramming the gate five times. One of the four suspect vehicles gained entry.

The store was severally damaged.

No injuries were reported.

Robbery With Gun: 700 Block of Arguello Boulevard, June 9, 6:32 p.m.

Five suspects entered a supermarket and headed to the liquor isle. An employee asked if they needed help. One of the suspects said they were "all good" and lifted his shirt showing a black handgun in his waistband.

The suspects then stole 26 bottles of liquor with a value of $1,628 and left the market.

No injuries were reported.

Shooting With Injury, Aggravated Assault With Gun: 2400 Block of Geary Boulevard, July 2, 11:33 p.m.

A victim arrived at a hospital emergency room with a gunshot wound. The victim was extremely uncooperative and refused to answer questions.

Northern Station units located a crime scene on the 1300 block of Sutter Street with casings and blood found, along with video showing the victim and two others standing while a shooter walked up and fired at the three subjects then fled.

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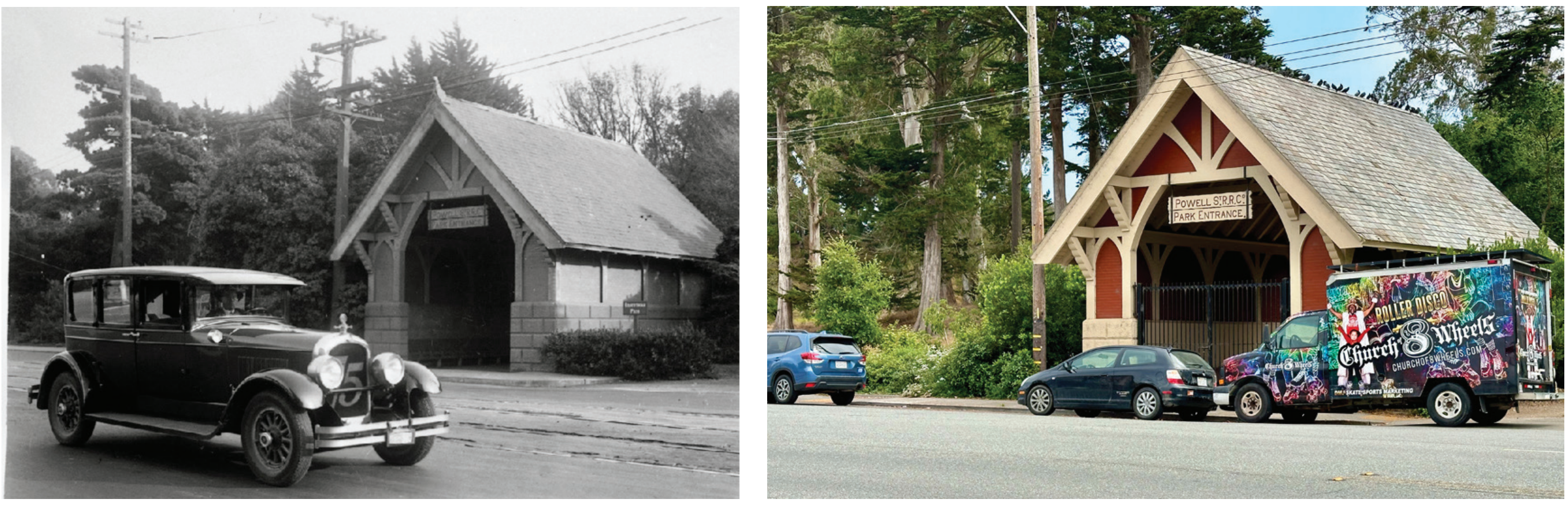
‘Then and Now’: Fulton Street at Seventh Avenue



Left: An automobile travels on Fulton Street at Seventh Avenue in front of the Powell Street Railroad Depot at Golden Gate Park, circa 1923. ***Photo courtesy of a private collector/Western Neighborhoods Project/OpenSFHistory.*** **Right: The Church of 8 Wheels Roller Disco van looks like the picture could be from the 1960s. Photo taken July 28, 2024.** ***Photo by Michael Durand.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued from page 11

songs. No need to be able to read music. Call Michael at 415-706-6428 to learn more.

PRESIDIO EVENTS

National Night Out: Co-sponsored by the National Park Police, National Park Service, Golden Gate Bridge Authority, San Francisco Fire Department and the Presidio Trust, National Night Out is an annual community-building event promoting police-community partnerships. Enjoy demonstrations, giveaways, and learn more about fire prevention and child safety. Get behind the wheel of a real fire truck and experience the U.S. Park Police horses up close! Presidio Main Parade Lawn, 105 Montgomery St., Tuesday, Aug. 6, 4-7 p.m. Free. Learn more at presidio.gov/explore/events/national-night-out.

Fiesta en el Parque: Fiesta en el Parque returns to the Presidio this summer! Join us for a family-friendly fiesta featuring Amor do Samba Latin music with DJ Alex Merino, Banda performances and more. Plus, enjoy delicious food from Presidio pop up food vendors celebrating the Bay Area’s diverse cultures and cuisines. Fiesta en el Parque is organized by Telemundo 48 and NBC Bay Area in collaboration with the Presidio Trust. Performances by Son De Kali, Association Maya, Zumba dancers, Samba Dancers Amor do Samba plus DJ and Emcee by Telemundo 48. Presidio Tunnel Tops, 210 Lincoln Blvd., Sunday, Aug. 11, 1- 4 p.m. Free. Learn more at presidio.gov/explore/events/fiesta-en-el-parque.

REFUSE REFUSE CLEANUPS

Thursday, Aug. 1, 10 a.m.–noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/641163/.
Friday, Aug. 2, 8–9 a.m., Morning Coffee Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/513212/.
Saturday, Aug. 3, 10–11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.
Thursday, Aug. 8, 10 a.m.–noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/641163/.
Saturday, Aug. 10, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Central Richmond Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/613409/.
Saturday, Aug. 10, 10–11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.
Tuesday, Aug. 13, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Richmond Library Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/553131/.
Thursday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m.–noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/641163/.
Thursday, Aug. 15, 10:30am–noon, Rise and Grind Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/413075/.
Saturday, Aug. 17, 10–11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.
Thursday, Aug. 22, 10 a.m.–noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/641163/.
Saturday, Aug. 24, 10–11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.
Sunday, Aug. 25, 10 a.m.–noon, Outer Richmond Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/450069/.
Saturday, Aug. 31, 10 a.m.–noon, Richmond District Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/441884/.
Saturday, Aug. 31, 10–11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.

REMEDY FEELIN’

Local band Remedy Feelin’ will preform a matinee at Winters Tavern, 1522 Francisco Blvd., Pacifica, on Saturday, Aug. 17 at 3 p.m. Free. Follow the band on Instagram @remedyfeelin.

RICHMOND REVIEW AT HEART OF THE RICHMOND NIGHT MARKET

Stop by and say hi! Come visit the Richmond Review booth at the third Heart of the Richmond Night Market on Saturday, Aug. 17, 4-8 p.m. on Clement Street between 22nd and 25th avenues. Free RR hats with each $30 donation (while supplies last)!

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

The San Francisco Symphony 2024-25 season single tickets are now on sale. Choose from exciting programs with star soloists like Itzhak Perlman, Lang Lang and Yuja Wang; blockbuster films performed live with the Symphony, like “Coco” or “Amadeus”; and special festive events like Día de los Muertos or Lunar New Year. Learn more at SFSymphony.org.

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WINE ON THE WESTSIDE

SAVE THE DATE for Wine on the Westside 2024, Oct. 24, 6:30-9:30 p.m at the Park Chalet. In recognition of 44 years serving youth, families, and seniors on the west side of San Francisco, we hope you’ll join us at a fundraiser benefiting The Richmond Neighborhood Center at The Park Chalet. This event will celebrate the outstanding achievements of the youth the Neighborhood Center serves in 10 public schools, the dedication of its volunteers in enhancing the quality of life for seniors, and the relentless efforts of their staff in strengthening our community and local businesses. Highlights of the evening include music by the Evie Laden Band, a silent auction featuring local restaurants, businesses, exciting sports and entertainment experiences and a brief program showcasing our impactful programs and future growth aspirations. Stay tuned to richmondsf.org for details.

MUNI Alert Twin Peaks Tunnel Upgrades

Tunnel Closed for Repairs

Thursday, August 22
through Thursday, August 29

During the tunnel repairs, Forest Hill and West Portal stations will be closed. Please use K L or M buses for service between Balboa Park or Zoo and Church station. S Shuttle trains will serve all Metro stations between Castro and Embarcadero. Transfer between Muni Metro trains and K L and M buses at Church or Castro.

J N and T train service will remain unchanged.

SFMTA.com/TunnelClosure

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'About Place' Exhibit at de Young Explores Notions of Place and Identity

By Noma Faingold

Saif Azzuz will have his work featured in the upcoming exhibition "About Place" at the de Young Museum. ***Photo courtesy of Saif Azzuz and Anthony Meier, Mill Valley. Photography by Adrian Martinez.***

Janna Keegan, associate curator of contemporary art and programming for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. ***Photo by Noma Faingold.***

The new show "About Place," opening on Aug. 10 at the de Young Museum, carries an adaptable theme, which could mean any number of things to the 10 Bay Area artists being exhibited.

"We tried to find a throughline among these very different artists with very different backgrounds, who use very different mediums," said Janna Keegan, associate curator of contemporary art and programming for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, who organized the exhibit.

"The notions of place and identity, these artists are thinking about having a more balanced relationship between the land and the people who are on it," Keegan said. "Co-nurturing, self-sustaining – one really looks at the land as part of ourselves, instead of something we can make into something. These artists are asking important questions."

The work of Saif Azzuz, 36, a Pacifica-based artist featured in the exhibit, is informed by his Yurok and Libyan heritage, his familial roots in Eureka, California, as well as his immediate studio surroundings at the Hunters Point Shipyards.

The abstract, mixed-media piece is titled, "Lo'op' (It burns)" and was acquired in 2022 by the FAMSF, along with 41 other contemporary artworks by 30 emerging artists, through a $1 million grant from the Svane Family Foundation focused exclusively on Bay Area artists.

Created in 2021, "Lo'op' (It burns)" is part of the artist's ongoing "Invasive Species" series, which he refers to as portraits, rather than landscapes. The "About Place" piece is composed of hues including burnt orange, mauve, crimson and ochre, sprayed on top of invasive plant species and bouquets found near Azzuz's studio, which have been laid on top of the canvas.

"That palate is pulled from fire maps at the time, with red being the worst," he said.

Azzuz's work has been shaped by such themes as colonization, gentrification, culture, resiliency of community and ecological inheritance, even before he earned his bachelor's degree in painting and drawing from the California College of the Arts in 2013.

"I think about the land a lot," Azzuz said. "The land holds so much story."

The husband and father of two often asks himself, "What am I doing to take care of the land?"

"It keeps me engaged and presents questions to the viewer," Azzuz said. "A fun thing about being an artist is we're tasked with asking questions and not providing answers."

According to Keegan, Azzuz does not think there is a separation between land and self.

"It's part of a mutually informing identity," she said. "His abstractions are appealing visually, but it's the conceptual underpinnings that tie back to the indigenous community. This approach to art and nature challenges the dominant narrative that we've been hearing for so long."

"About Place" is the second in a series of three exhibitions derived from the Svane acquisitions. Last summer's show was called "Crafting Radicality." This year's show includes 10 artists, including Azzuz, Chris Johanson, photographer/filmmaker, Katy Grannan, Ruby C. Tut and the artist collective, Postcommodity.

A multi-channel video and sound installation called "Going to Water" (2021), by Postcommodity, will be featured prominently in the de Young's central atrium, Wilsey Court. Surveillance video of the arid Lake Owens (located east of Los Angeles) will be combined with an experimental soundtrack.

"It was drained (in 1926) to provide water to the Los Angeles community. It was an important meeting place for indigenous communities when it was still a lake," Keegan said. "The way the piece is put together gives a feeling of what happened there and the sense of loss."

There will also be a collaboration with the SFJAZZ Collective, Oct. 24-27 in the music venue's Miner Auditorium. The collective's seven-person musical ensemble will compose new material and arrange familiar songs inspired by select works from the Svane acquisition. Video of the artworks will run accompanying the live performances.

"About Place" is a showcase for 10 emerging Bay Area artists, Aug. 10-Sept. 28, 2025, at the de Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr. Learn more at famsf.org.

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Upper Great Highway Protest

Continued from page 1

to have things like this so we can talk about it," Corriea said. "We're going to continue to talk about it and I can tell you this, the west side is going to be less safe, merchants won't do as well, and someone needs to pay attention to that."

But at least one supporter of converting the highway into a park also showed up at the rally.

Lucas Lux, volunteer president of the Friends of Great Highway Park, thinks it is a great idea.

"It's an incredible, positive opportunity that we should embrace in a city with incredible open spaces," Lux said. "This is our next opportunity to open the ocean front for people to enjoy in more ways."

Capt. Sherman Tillman of the San Francisco Fire Department, however, called for a "harmonious coexistence" between cars, bicycles and public transportation, which he says the Upper Great Highway already has as it is now. Tillman stressed that he was only speaking for himself as an individual, not as a representative of the fire department.

"Cars, bicycles and public transportation each serve a vital role in our daily lives," Tillman said. "Cars provide convenience and flexibility; bicycles offer sustainability and health benefits. And public transportation promotes efficiency and environmental conservation. It is only through the integration and cooperation of all these modes of transportation that we can truly achieve a balanced and harmonious urban ecosystem.

"Now guess what? There's something like that that already exists; it's called The Great Highway," he said. "Two blocks from there, there's this thing called Golden Gate Park. When you think about urban planning, you have everything at the Great Highway. It's already there. That is the model for the future."

"A park isn't necessary on the west side. It's needed on maybe the east side," Lope Yap said at the demonstration. "We already have two great parks: GGNRA (Golden Gate National Recreation Area) and Golden Gate Park."

But this argument does not sway Lux.

"We have one ocean front. We have zero ocean front parks," he responded. "Opening the ocean front for people to enjoy is an incredible opportunity and San Franciscans have voted with their feet, that they enjoy an oceanfront promenade."

Lux cited statistics he said were gathered over the last four years during a "pilot program," which shut down the highway for the pandemic and then later on weekends only.

"Just simply by closing a gate to cars during this pilot, it has become the City's third-most-visited park with over 10,000 visits every single weekend. Those are people who could go to Golden Gate Park but they want to enjoy the ocean."

But Marie Hurabiell thinks the impact of closing the highway to motor vehicles will affect westside residents disproportionately.

"The people who are out there are impacted every day when it is closed," Hurabiell said. "I don't think it is fair for us to put this to a vote for the entire City, that is not impacted by this, and put it all on the people who are impacted by it.

"These are people who need to get to work, who need to get their kids to school, who need to get their elderly parents to appointments," she said. "This isn't about creating a park, by the way. This is about creating an abandoned road. The legislation only closes the road to cars. It does not create a park."

But Lux had a different take on that as well.

"Where our City meets the Pacific Ocean is one of the most special places in the City. That space belongs to everybody in the City. Those of us who live close to the ocean are really lucky, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't share it. That is a shared asset for the whole City and the whole City should have a voice in how our sole ocean front is used."

Corriea said the closure will contribute to congestion of traffic heading south through Golden Gate Park.

"Take a look at Chain of Lakes Drive in Golden Gate Park on closure days on the Great Highway and you're going to see bumper-to-bumper traffic there," he said.

Plus it will force traffic off a safe highway and onto side streets.

"It puts cars in the neighborhoods rushing and speeding by on the Lower Great Highway in those outer avenues on the west side, and removes a route for emergency vehicles.

"I can guarantee you, from my 35 years of experience in public safety, that response times for emergency vehicles that are trying to traverse north and south on the west side of the City is increased when the Great Highway is closed. We're going to guarantee a 24/7 increase by this."

Lux claims the legislation specifically authorizes emergency vehicles to access the space.

Yet another ongoing issue that might be affected is the homeless population that congregates in RVs along that same stretch of the adjacent Lower Great Highway.

Lux doesn't think closing down the upper stretch of highway and converting it into a park will attract more homeless to that area.

"I would point to how well our parks are managed throughout the City. We don't see that problem across all of our parks," he said.

"As someone who lives in the neighborhood, that has been a problem for decades and people who've lived there a long time can tell you that the problem used to be much worse. Today it's not as bad, but that being said, the main point again is our parks are very well managed. They can handle this."

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Connie lives in the Richmond District with her partner, Ed, a San Francisco Fire Fighter, their son and dog.

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